



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Syria Country Brief

August 2020

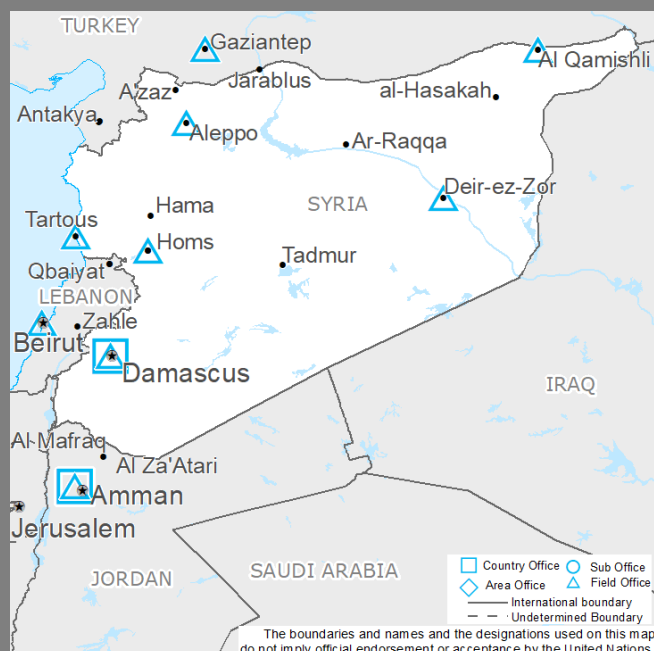


## Operational Context

The conflict in Syria is taking a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people. The largest displacement crisis since World War II, some 6.7 million Syrians are internally displaced and 5.6 million are registered as refugees outside of the country.

Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity across the country. There are 9.3 million people food insecure and a further 2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity, according to WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping.

Since 2011, WFP has been providing food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance to crisis-affected Syrian families in the country. WFP has been active in Syria since 1964.



Population: <b>20.4 million</b>	2019 Human Development Index: <b>154 out of 189</b>
Income Level: <b>Low-income</b>	Chronic malnutrition: <b>81,700 children between 6-59 months</b>

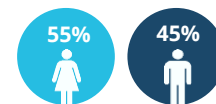
## In Numbers

**44,766 mt** of food assistance delivered

**US\$ 3.2 m** in cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 312.4 m** 6-month net funding requirement *(September 2020 – February 2021, as of 11 September 2020)*

**4.9 m people assisted** in August 2020  
(based on dispatches)



## Operational Updates

- In August, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 4.9 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), School Feeding, Nutrition, and Livelihoods and Resilience-activities in Syria.
- WFP provided GFA to 4.8 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 29 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- As part of the Health Sector-led response to COVID-19 in Syria, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) has to date provided food assistance to 10,800 people in 17 quarantine centres across Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, and Tartous governorates. Under the COVID-19 Institutional Feeding programme, WFP is providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrians in COVID-19 quarantine centres.
- Following the deaths of eight children in Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate) in August, the United Nations on 24-25 August conducted a multi-sectoral assessment mission in the camp. WFP participated in the mission with staff from its Nutrition unit, together with staff from UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and WHO. The assessment report is expected to be finalized by the second week of September.
- In north-western Syria, WFP distributed GFA to 1.3 million people with commodities delivered via the Logistics Cluster-facilitated cross-border operation from Turkey.
- Following the passing of UN Security Council [Resolution 2533 \(2020\)](#) on 11 July 2020 and the subsequent closure of the Bab al-Salam border crossing for the cross-border delivery of humanitarian assistance to north-western Syria,

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Photo Caption: Girl with WFP-provided commodities in north-western Syria. © WFP/Cooperating Partner

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)	
Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Available Contributions
<b>1.81 billion</b>	<b>598.8 million</b>
2020 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (September 2020 – February 2021, as of 11 September)
<b>1.07 billion</b>	<b>312.4 million</b>

**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food insecure populations affected by the crisis, including host communities, IDPs and returnees, in all governorates, have access to life-saving food to meet their basic food needs all year round.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

- Activities:**
1. Provision of general food assistance in the form of regular in-kind monthly food rations and ready-to-eat rations in the initial phase of displacement.
  2. Provision of school feeding for pre- and primary school children in regular schools and CBT to out-of-school children enrolled in informal education or alternate learning opportunities.

**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food insecure families in urban and rural areas affected by the crisis are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition needs and increase their self-reliance throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

- Activities:**
3. Provision of livelihood support through household- and communal-level asset creation through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities and enhanced human capital through food assistance for training (FFT).

**Strategic Result 2:** No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Nutritionally vulnerable groups, especially children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, across the Syrian Arab Republic have reduced levels of malnutrition throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

- Activities:**
4. Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.
  5. Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

**Strategic Result 8:** Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Humanitarian partners across the Syrian Arab Republic benefit from augmented logistics and emergency telecommunications capacity and services, enabling them to provide humanitarian assistance throughout the crisis.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

- Activities:**
6. Provide coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that face logistics gaps.
  7. Provide shared ICT services, emergency telecommunications coordination and information technology (IT) emergency preparedness training to humanitarian organizations in common operational areas.
  8. Provide technical assistance and support services to humanitarian partners.
  9. Provide passenger and light cargo services to the humanitarian community (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, UNHAS).

the WFP-led Logistics Cluster is preparing for the expansion and augmentation of the remaining Bab al-Hawa border crossing transshipment hub. The expansion will double the physical size of the hub (from 5,000 to 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>), increasing the surface and office space, while also increasing staff numbers.

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria increased by 247 percent in August. As of 31 August, the Ministry of Health in Syria had confirmed a total of 2,703 cases of COVID-19, with 109 related deaths.
- WFP Syria in August completed a full review of its programmatic COVID-19 mitigation guidelines and SOPs. The SOPs include guidelines on programme implementation, cooperating partner management, as well as the enforcement of protective measures; designed to reduce the risk to staff and beneficiaries while maintaining the provision of WFP assistance to the most vulnerable across Syria.

## Monitoring

- In August, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 429 on-site monitoring (OSM) checklists across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, livelihood activities, nutrition activities, CBT redemptions and warehouses.
- Of the OSM checklists conducted, WFP monitors conducted 81 checklists, equivalent to 19 percent direct WFP monitoring coverage. The rest of the checklists were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible to WFP due to the security situation, lack of approvals or temporary logistical constraints.

## Challenges

- WFP requires US\$ 312 million to sustain operations through February 2021. WFP operation in Syria has a critical funding gap of US\$ 205 million (September to June 2021) to be able to maintain its provision of general food assistance to 4.8 million people each month. With a four-month lead time to import food into Syria, the timing of contributions is critical.
- Food prices remained relatively stable in August – largely linked to the stabilization of the SYP/USD informal exchange rate, with food prices decreasing by three percent from July to August (compared to an increase of three percent from June to July). However, a basic basket of food still costs nearly 22 times the pre-crisis average.

## Donors

**The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2020 ranked by contributions:** Germany, USA, Canada, UN Country Based Pooled Funds, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).